

May 4, 1999

1398 '99 JUN -9 A9:58

**FDA Commissioner Jane Henney
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 14-71
Rockville, MD 20857**

RE: Docket 99P-0033/CP 1

Dear Commissioner Henney:

I'm enclosing for your review a copy of an article sent to me by the Humane Farming Association (HFA).

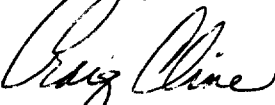
It seems unconscionable to me that Federal agencies do not even require State health officials to report Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs).

Please require the FDA to act immediately and responsibly on HFA's petition. I am becoming ever more concerned and convinced that the FDA and the USDA are not doing nearly enough to educate and protect the public, whereas these agencies are doing more than enough to protect the meat and dairy industries.

I'd like to also request that you take time to read the book by Gail Eisnitz entitled Slaughterhouse -- it's a book that could, and perhaps should, change your life.

Thank you very much for your courtesy in replying.

Sincerely,



**Craig Cline
2856 Vick Ave. NW
Salem, OR 97304-1314 (503) 364-2448 (503) 364-0161**

Enclosure

99P-0033

C 94

HFA Files Legal Petitions to Combat *MAD COW* Disease in the United States

You may have seen in the nation's newspapers several weeks ago a chilling report that hinted at the magnitude of what may be the world's next great epidemic.

A panel of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) scientists have asked our government to prohibit blood donations from people who have lived in England in the last twenty years. Their concern is that these people may have eaten meat infected with mad cow disease and could be at risk for getting and spreading the disease here in the U.S.

Don't expect the FDA, however, to voluntarily adopt this recommendation from its own scientific advisors. For the FDA is already ignoring even more compelling scientific warnings about mad cow disease, in particular, the dangers of feeding dead animals to farm animals.

It is because of this inaction that HFA has filed two formal legal petitions demanding that the federal government act immediately to monitor and prevent mad cow type diseases in the U.S. Joining with HFA in this effort are the Center for Food Safety, the Center for Media & Democracy, and several families of CJD victims.

The Silent Killer

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) are killing people, deer, elk, and sheep in the U.S. TSEs are a mysterious class of diseases that are called by different names in different species.

Some identified types of TSEs are Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) and new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (nvCJD) which is a human disease apparently caused by the same agent which causes bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) or mad cow disease.

HFA's demand for immediate government action is given added urgency by the case of a thirty-year old Utah man who is now terminally ill with CJD, a mad cow type disease in humans.

Douglas McEwen may have contracted CJD by eating or handling deer or elk infected with mad deer disease. Additionally, there is concern that, as a frequent blood donor, he may have inadvertently passed on contaminated blood to others.

Commenting to the news media on the petitions, HFA's National Director Bradley Miller stated, "TSEs represent a potentially devastating threat to both human and animal health. Given what we know now, it is unconscionable that our government is still allowing the feeding of blood and other animal by-products to farm animals."

The common characteristic of TSE diseases is that they are invariably fatal. They can be transmitted to humans through exposure to contaminated human growth hormone, corneal transplants, the use of dura mater in transplants, the use of infected probes, and possibly through blood.

A major route of transmission occurs through ingestion of the infectious agent, such as eating infected meat. The agent does not trigger an immune response. The doomed animal or human appears to be in perfectly normal health for a significant portion of their lifetime.

Later, the disease emerges as holes and amyloid plaque material spreading in the brain, causing symptoms of dementia (which routinely appears to be Alzheimer's Disease), physical failure, and death.

Before a human or animal exhibits symptoms there is no way to test for the disease even though the human or animal is infected and contagious.

Prior to the appearance of nvCJD, the best known occurrence of a TSE in humans was the disease kuru, a TSE that appeared in the Fore tribe in New Guinea in the early 20th century. This disease was spread by cannibalistic rituals, including not only the consumption of brain but exposure of brain matter to mucous membranes and cuts in the skin.

Just as cannibalistic rituals produced the TSE kuru in humans, forcing farm animals to become "cannibals"

"It is unconscionable that our government is still allowing the feeding of blood and other animal by-products to farm animals."

The common characteristic of TSE diseases is that they are invariably fatal.

**Craig Cline
2856 Vick Ave. NW
Salem, OR 97304**

SALEM OR 97301 13:18 03/04/93

**FDA Commissioner Jane Henney
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 14-71
Rockville, MD 20857**

hhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh